What Is Claimed Is:

1. A method for providing access to resources on heterogeneous networks via any network and associated access network device, comprising the steps of:

    a. associating each of a plurality of resources with a respective universal resource identifier;

    b. receiving a resource identifier associated with a desired resource via an access network;

    c. resolving the resource identifier to determine information associated with the desired resource, wherein the desired resource may reside on any of the heterogeneous networks;

    d. causing a communications session to be established with the desired resource.

2. The method according to claim 1, further including the steps of:
    a. determining at least one communications capability of an access device; and,

    b. selecting from the at least one communications capability, a preferred communications capability.

3. The method according to claim 2, wherein the communications session is established as a function of the preferred communications capability.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein step (b) further includes the steps of receiving a signal prefix for signaling the access network that a UTRI has been transmitted.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the access network is the PSTN.

6. The method according to claim 5, wherein the UTRI is generated by a dialing operation on a telephony device.

34

7. The method according to claim 1, wherein the UTRI is embedded in a message.

8. The method according to claim 7, further including the step of extracting the UTRI from the message.

9. The method according to claim 7, wherein the message is one of an e-mail message, an SMS message, an instant message and a pager message.

10. The method according to claim 2, wherein the step of determining a communications capability of the access device further includes the steps of:
    a. storing a table, which associates an access device identifier with at least one communications capability;
    b. receiving an access device identifier associated with the access device; and,
    c. searching the table for the access device identifier to find at least one communications capability for the access device.

11. The method according to claim 10, wherein the step of selecting a preferred communications capability further includes the step of consulting a pre-defined preference table, wherein the pre-defined preference table associates a desirability ranking for communications capabilities with respect to one another.

12. The method according to claim 1, wherein the heterogeneous networks include the PSTN, the Internet, a pager network and a wireless network with or without data capabilities including SMS, EMS, MMS and USSD.

13. A method for providing access to resources on heterogeneous networks from any network comprising the steps of:
    a. associating each of a plurality of resources with a respective universal resource identifier;
    b. deploying a resource resolution network, accessible via any information network, wherein the resource resolution network includes at least one

resource resolution node adapted to:

    1) receive a selected resource identifier corresponding to a desired resource;

    2) resolve the selected resource identifier to determine information associated with the desired resource; and,

    3) establish a communications session with the desired resource.

14. The method according to claim 13, wherein the resource resolution network is accessible via at least one access network associated with an access device for access to a desired resource.

15. The method according to claim 14, wherein the desired resource is associated with one of the access network and a network external to the access network.

16. The method according to claim 13, wherein the at least one resource resolution node is further adapted to perform a communications decision process to determine a communications mode for access to the resource relative to one or more communications capabilities associated with an access device.

17. The method according to claim 13, wherein the resource identifier is generated by dialing a telephony device.

18. A method for providing access to generalized services over a network comprising the steps of:

    (a) associating each of at least one universal shell object with a universal identifier;

    (b) associating each of a plurality of users with a plurality of desired services related to a specified universal shell object;

    (c) receiving an input universal identifier associated with a desired universal shell object and information associated with a user;

    (d) resolving the input universal identifier to determine a

36

desired universal shell object and at least one service, wherein the service is determined as a function of information associated with the user;

(e) providing the at least one service to the user.

19. The method according to claim 18, wherein the universal identifier is disseminated through a distribution channel.

20. The method according to claim 18, wherein the distribution channel includes at least one of an advertisement, an article, a television program, a movie and a commercial product.

21. The method according to claim 1, further including the step of disseminating at least one universal identifier through a distribution channel.

22. The method according to claim 21, wherein the distribution channel includes at least one of an advertisement, an article, a television program, a movie and a commercial product.

37